Electrification of Villages/Harijan Bastis in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh

2871. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of hamlets in villages and Harijan Bastis in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have not been provided with power connections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many villages/Harijan Bastis are proposed to be electrified during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Electricity Boards extend power from the main village to the hamlets and Harijan Bastis in accordance with their own rules regarding minimum demand for connections and the economic viability thereof.

(c) As per the information available, the details of Harijan Bastis and hamlets proposed to be electrified during the next two years are as under :

	Harijan Bastis		Hamlets	
	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	400	400	390	390
Bihar	Programme not finalised by RSEB			
Uttar Pradesh	2700	2900	No programme	

Bringing back Indian Intellectuals from other Countries

2872. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which had demanded, services of Indian Scientists, doctors, engineers, technologists, etc. during 1994-95 and 1995-96 and till date, stating the reasons therefor;

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bring back the aforesaid intellectuals of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) A statement is given in the annexure (*See* Appendix-179, Annexure-58).

(c) The above experts are deputed under the bilateral assignments to developing countries including the ITEC (Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation). These assignments are for specific period and the experts are expected to return at the conclusion of the assignments. However, when the host country wishes to avail of the services of the expert for a period beyond the tenure, their request is examined by the High Commission/Embassy, and as per the recommendation of the High Commission/Embassy, the extension is granted by the competent authority.

Terrorist Camps reopened by Taliban

2873. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Taliban reopens Kashmir Terrorist Camps', appearing in the Hindu, dated the 22nd November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the report. Government continues to follow developments in Afganistan, including reports on the Taliban handing over terrorist training facilities to the Harkat-Ul-Ansar, very closely and to evaluate their implications for us. Government is also continuing to maintain vigil and is taking all necessary steps to safeguard the country's